

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Section 68.4 of the Commission's Rules)	
Governing Hearing Aid-Compatible)	WT Docket No. 01-309
Telephones)	
)	
T-Mobile USA, Inc. Petition for Waiver of)	
Section 20.19(c)(3) of the)	
Commission's Rules)	

COMMENTS OF THE ALLIANCE FOR PUBLIC TECHNOLOGY

The Alliance for Public Technology ("APT") respectfully submits these comments in response to T-Mobile USA, Inc.'s Petition of August 26, 2005, seeking a waiver of the Commissions rules concerning hearing aid compatible telephones.¹

APT is a nonprofit organization of public interest groups and individuals, working together to foster broad access to affordable, usable information and communications services and technology, for the purpose of bringing better and more affordable health care to all citizens, expanding educational opportunities for lifelong learning, enabling people with disabilities to function in ways they otherwise could not, creating opportunities for jobs and economic advancement,

¹ T-Mobile filed Reply Comments, which supplement its petition. Reply of T-Mobile USA, Inc., WT Docket No. 01-309 (filed September 8, 2005).

making government more responsive to all citizens and simplifying access to communications technology.

As demonstrated by the Commission's recent Order adopting the recommendations submitted by Working Group 9 and granting in part Cingular's waiver request,² the Commission is well aware of the wireless industry's problems in deploying HAC-compatible GSM handsets. APT agrees with SHHH³ that in light of carriers' dependence on handset manufacturers, the Commission's implementation process also needs to hold the manufacturers accountable. APT also agrees with SHHH that consumers with hearing losses have been forced to wait too long for hearing aid compatible wireless products to be available. Thus, any relief granted by the Commission in the form of waivers for carriers should be for limited periods of time, consistent with the goal of getting HAC-compliant handsets into stores as quickly as possible.

In light of T-Mobile's ongoing commitments to address the needs of people with hearing losses,⁴ APT supports T-Mobile's Petition for a limited 60-day waiver, as supplemented by its September 8 filing, in which T-Mobile commits to a rolling deployment of compatible handsets. The Commission, consistent with its partial grant of the Cingular request, should impose appropriate reporting and consumer outreach conditions on T-Mobile.

September 13, 2005

² *Memorandum Opinion and Order*, WT Docket No. 01-309, September 7, 2005.

³ Comments of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH), WT Docket No. 01-309 (filed August 18, 2005).

⁴ T-Mobile Reply, at page 2.

Respectfully Submitted:

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